

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are rejected. Claims 1-20 remain pending. Claims 1 and 8 are amended herein. No new matter is introduced as a result of the claim amendments.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Iwata et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,535,749), hereinafter referred to as "Iwata." The Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed embodiments of the present invention are not anticipated by Iwata for the following reasons.

Claims 1-7

Claim 1 of the present invention recites (emphasis added):

a sensing device coupled to said processor module and to said sliding display cover for providing geometric information for a plurality of positions indicating a relative position of an edge of said sliding display cover with respect to said display, and wherein said relative position identifies a displayed object on said display; and,

a device driver for performing an action related to said displayed object in response to a signal, wherein said signal is user initiated.

The rejection cites column 12, lines 45-50 of Iwata as disclosing indicating a relative position of an edge of a sliding display cover with respect to a display as

recited in Claim 1. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata reference does not teach or suggest the claim limitations recited in Claim 1 of the present invention of a sensing device capable of indicating a relative position of an edge of the sliding display cover with respect to the display, and wherein the relative position identifies a displayed object on the display as claimed above. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest performing an action involving the displayed object in response to a signal and wherein the signal is user initiated as recited in Claim 1 of the present invention. Instead, Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 1 in column 12, lines 45-50 which state (emphasis added):

As a location detector for detecting a location of cover 7, a cover switch 9 is employed. Cover switch 9 detects the opened/closed status of cover 7, and if the cover is in the closed status, telephone mode is set. If the cover is in the opened status, information terminal mode is set and used as an information terminal equipment.

In the cover closed status (FIG 1), the appearance becomes a mobile telephone, telephone keyboard 6 can be used, and only the bottom part of liquid crystal display 4 is exposed, and only the exposed part can be used.

In the above cited description, Iwata merely teaches a sensing device which detects whether the cover is in an open or closed position and setting the operating mode of the apparatus based thereupon. Iwata does not teach or suggest a sensing device which identifies a displayed object based upon the relative position of the edge of the sliding display cover with respect to the display as recited in Claim 1 of the present invention. Furthermore, Iwata does not teach or suggest a device driver for

performing an action related to the displayed object in response to a user initiated signal as recited in Claim 1 of the present invention.

Additionally, Iwata does not teach or suggest that cover switch 9 can detect any position of cover 7 other than a fully closed position. Claim 1 of the present invention recites providing geometric information for a plurality of positions indicating a relative position of an edge of said sliding display cover with respect to said display. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 of the present invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is overcome.

Claim 2 depends from Claim 1, and recites further limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 1 comprising:

a sensing device coupled to said processor module and to said sliding display cover for providing geometric information for a plurality of positions indicating a relative position of an edge of said sliding display cover with respect to said display, and wherein said relative position identifies a displayed object on said display; and,

a device driver for performing an action related to said displayed object in response to a signal, wherein said signal is user initiated.

The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a handheld computer as recited above with the additional limitation of:

...said action is a visual configuration of said display.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 2 of a handheld computer which performs a visual configuration of the display in response to a signal and based upon the position of the edge of the sliding display cover relative to the display. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 2 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 3 depends from Claim 1, and recites further limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 1 comprising:

a sensing device coupled to said processor module and to said sliding display cover for providing geometric information for a plurality of positions indicating a relative position of an edge of said sliding display cover with respect to said display, and wherein said relative position identifies a displayed object on said display; and,

a device driver for performing an action related to said displayed object in response to a signal, wherein said signal is user initiated.

The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a handheld computer as recited above with the additional limitation of the handheld computer further comprising:

a wireless transmitter, and wherein said action is an initiation of communication with another device using said wireless transmitter.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 3 of a wireless transmitter which initiates communication with another device in

response to a signal and wherein the initiating is selected based upon the position of the edge of a sliding display cover relative to the display. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 3 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 4 depends from Claim 1, and recites further limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 1 comprising:

a sensing device coupled to said processor module and to said sliding display cover for providing geometric information for a plurality of positions indicating a relative position of an edge of said sliding display cover with respect to said display, and wherein said relative position identifies a displayed object on said display; and,

a device driver for performing an action related to said displayed object in response to a signal, wherein said signal is user initiated.

The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a handheld computer as recited above with the additional limitation of the handheld computer further comprising:

a wireless transmitter, and wherein said action is an initiation of communication with an external device, using said wireless transmitter.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 4 of a wireless transmitter which initiates communication with an external device in response to a signal and wherein the initiating is selected based upon the position of

the edge of a sliding display cover relative to the display. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 4 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 5 depends from Claim 1, and recites further limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 1 comprising:

a sensing device coupled to said processor module and to said sliding display cover for providing geometric information for a plurality of positions indicating a relative position of an edge of said sliding display cover with respect to said display, and wherein said relative position identifies a displayed object on said display; and,

a device driver for performing an action related to said displayed object in response to a signal, wherein said signal is user initiated.

The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a handheld computer as recited above with the additional limitation of:

... wherein said sensing device is a non-contact sensor device.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 5 of a handheld computer having a non-contact sensor device which provides geometric information indicating a relative position of the edge of the sliding display cover relative to the display. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 5 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 6 depends from Claim 1, and recites further limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 1 comprising:

a sensing device coupled to said processor module and to said sliding display cover for providing geometric information for a plurality of positions indicating a relative position of an edge of said sliding display cover with respect to said display, and wherein said relative position identifies a displayed object on said display; and,

a device driver for performing an action related to said displayed object in response to a signal, wherein said signal is user initiated.

The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a handheld computer as recited above with the additional limitation of:

...wherein said display is a touch panel display forming a part of said sensing device.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 6 of a handheld computer having a touch panel display forming a part of a sensing device. Additionally, Iwata does not teach or suggest a handheld computer which uses a sensing device to provide geometric information indicating a relative position of a touch panel display with respect to an edge of said sliding display cover. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 6 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 7 depends from Claim 1, and recites further limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 1 comprising:

a sensing device coupled to said processor module and to said sliding display cover for providing geometric information for a plurality of positions indicating a relative position of an edge of said sliding display cover with respect to said display, and wherein said relative position identifies a displayed object on said display; and,

a device driver for performing an action related to said displayed object in response to a signal, wherein said signal is user initiated.

The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a handheld computer as recited above with the additional limitation of:

...wherein said sliding cover comprises an input device coupled to said processor module.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 7 of a handheld computer having a sliding display cover comprising an input device coupled to a processor module. Additionally, Iwata does not teach or suggest a sensing device coupled to a processor module and to a sliding display cover for providing geometric information indicating a relative position of a display with respect to an edge of an input device. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 7 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claims 8-15

Claim 8 of the present invention recites a method for selecting an option in an electronic device comprising:

- a) displaying an object on a display screen of said processor module;
- b) selecting an action of said electronic device, wherein said selecting comprises identifying said object by positioning an edge of said sliding cover adjacent to said object;
- c) activating a selection device of said electronic device; and
- d) invoking said action of said electronic device in response to said activating.

The rejection cites column 12, lines 45-50 of Iwata as anticipating the embodiment of the present invention recited in Claim 8. The Applicants respectfully submit that cited portion Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 8. Specifically, column 12, lines 45-50 states (emphasis added):

As a location detector for detecting a location of cover 7, a cover switch 9 is employed. Cover switch 9 detects the opened/closed status of cover 7, and if the cover is in the closed status, telephone mode is set. If the cover is in the opened status, information terminal mode is set and used as an information terminal equipment.

In the cover closed status (FIG 1), the appearance becomes a mobile telephone, telephone keyboard 6 can be used, and only the bottom part of liquid crystal display 4 is exposed, and only the exposed part can be used.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 8 of selecting an action of an electronic device, wherein said selecting comprises identifying said object by positioning an edge of said sliding cover adjacent to said object. Instead, Iwata teaches detecting an opened status or a closed status of the cover of the electronic device in order to determine which mode to set the device.

Furthermore, Iwata does not teach or suggest invoking an action of said electronic device in response to activating a selection device as recited in Claim 8 of the present invention. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 8 overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 9 depends from Claim 8, and recites further limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 8 comprising:

- a) displaying an object on a display screen of said processor module;
- b) selecting an action of said electronic device, wherein said selecting comprises identifying said object by positioning an edge of said sliding cover adjacent to said object;
- c) activating a selection device of said electronic device; and
- d) invoking said action of said electronic device in response to said activating.

The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a method as recited above with the additional limitation of:

generating a position signal corresponding to a position of said sliding cover relative to said display screen.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 9 of positioning an edge of a sliding cover adjacent to a portion of information displayed on a display screen and generating a position signal corresponding to the position of the sliding cover relative to said display screen. The Applicants further submit that

Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 9 of invoking an action of the electronic device related to the portion of the information adjacent to the edge of the sliding cover. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 9 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 10 depends from Claim 8, and recites further limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 8 comprising:

- a) displaying an object on a display screen of said processor module;
- b) selecting an action of said electronic device, wherein said selecting comprises identifying said object by positioning an edge of said sliding cover adjacent to said object;
- c) activating a selection device of said electronic device; and
- d) invoking said action of said electronic device in response to said activating.

The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a method as recited above with the additional limitation of:

wherein said action is an execution of an application program.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 10 of positioning an edge of a sliding cover adjacent to a portion of information displayed on a display screen and generating a position signal corresponding to the position of the sliding cover relative to said display screen. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest invoking the execution of an

application program related to the portion of the information adjacent to the edge of the sliding cover. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 11 depends from Claim 8, and recites further limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 8 comprising:

- a) displaying an object on a display screen of said processor module;
- b) selecting an action of said electronic device, wherein said selecting comprises identifying said object by positioning an edge of said sliding cover adjacent to said object;
- c) activating a selection device of said electronic device; and
- d) invoking said action of said electronic device in response to said activating.

The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a method as recited above with the additional limitation of:

wherein said action is a display of related additional information to said portion of said information.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 11 of positioning an edge of a sliding cover adjacent to a portion of information displayed on a display screen and generating a position signal corresponding to the position of the sliding cover relative to said display screen. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest invoking the display of

additional information related to the portion of information adjacent to the edge of the sliding cover. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 11 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 12 depends from Claim 8, and recites further limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 8 comprising:

- a) displaying an object on a display screen of said processor module;
- b) selecting an action of said electronic device, wherein said selecting comprises identifying said object by positioning an edge of said sliding cover adjacent to said object;
- c) activating a selection device of said electronic device; and
- d) invoking said action of said electronic device in response to said activating.

The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a method as recited above with the additional limitation of:

...wherein said selection device is a key.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 12 of positioning an edge of a sliding cover adjacent to a portion of information displayed on a display screen and generating a position signal corresponding to the position of the sliding cover relative to said display screen. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest using a key to invoke an action of the electronic device related to the portion of the information adjacent to the

edge of the sliding cover. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 12 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 13 depends from Claim 8, and recites further limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 8 comprising:

- a) displaying an object on a display screen of said processor module;
- b) selecting an action of said electronic device, wherein said selecting comprises identifying said object by positioning an edge of said sliding cover adjacent to said object;
- c) activating a selection device of said electronic device; and
- d) invoking said action of said electronic device in response to said activating.

The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a method as recited above with the additional limitation of:

wherein the sliding cover comprises a keyboard.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 13 of positioning an edge of a sliding cover comprising a keyboard adjacent to a portion of information displayed on a display screen and generating a position signal corresponding to the position of the sliding cover relative to said display screen. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest invoking an action of the electronic device related to the portion of the information

adjacent to the edge of the sliding cover. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 13 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 14 depends from Claim 8, and recites further limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 8 comprising:

- a) displaying an object on a display screen of said processor module;
- b) selecting an action of said electronic device, wherein said selecting comprises identifying said object by positioning an edge of said sliding cover adjacent to said object;
- c) activating a selection device of said electronic device; and
- d) invoking said action of said electronic device in response to said activating.

The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a method as recited above with the additional limitation of:

wherein the sliding cover further comprises a microphone.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 14 of positioning an edge of a sliding cover comprising a microphone adjacent to a portion of information displayed on a display screen and generating a position signal corresponding to the position of the sliding cover relative to said display screen. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest invoking an action of the electronic device related to the portion of the information

adjacent to the edge of the sliding cover. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 14 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 15 depends from Claim 8, and recites further limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata teaches away from the claim limitations recited in Claim 8 comprising:

- a) displaying an object on a display screen of said processor module;
- b) selecting an action of said electronic device, wherein said selecting comprises identifying said object by positioning an edge of said sliding cover adjacent to said object;
- c) activating a selection device of said electronic device; and
- d) invoking said action of said electronic device in response to said activating.

The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a method as recited above with the additional limitation of:

wherein said sliding cover further comprises a speaker.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest the claim limitation recited in Claim 15 of positioning an edge of a sliding cover comprising a speaker adjacent to a portion of information displayed on a display screen and generating a position signal corresponding to the position of the sliding cover relative to said display screen.

Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest invoking an action of the electronic device related to the portion of the information

adjacent to the edge of the sliding cover. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claims 16-20

Claim 16 of the present invention recites (emphasis added):

A computer readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed in a handheld computer comprising a display, causes the handheld computer to configure a visual output of the display, comprising instructions for:

sensing a relative position of a sliding cover and a processor module, wherein said relative position is a partially closed position;

generating said visual output on said display, wherein said visual output comprises visual objects arranged to be viewable in response to said relative position.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest sensing a relative position of a sliding cover and a processor module in which the relative position is a partially closed position. Instead, Iwata only teaches sensing whether a cover is in an open or closed position. Furthermore, Iwata does not teach or suggest that cover switch 9 can detect any position of cover 7 other than a fully closed position. As a result, the apparatus of Iwata is not able to determine whether its cover is in a partially closed position. In other words, Iwata merely teaches determining an absolute position status of the cover (open or closed) rather than determining whether the cover is open, closed, or partially closed. Because apparatus

of Iwata is not able to determine whether the cover is in a partially closed position, it is unable to arrange visual output on its display to be viewable when the cover is in a partially closed position as recited in Claim 16 of the present invention.

In contrast, not only can the present invention determine when the sliding cover is in a partially closed position, it can use this information to arrange the output of its display so that a visual object is viewable when the sliding cover is partially closed. This is discussed on page 41, lines 17-23-page 42, line 10 of the specification. As shown in Figure 18, when keypad slider 1802 is in a fully extended position, visual object 1805 is displayed such that it is aligned with the edge of keypad slider 1802. In Figure 19, keypad slider is shown in a partially closed position. In response to handheld computer 1800 detecting that the relative position of keypad slider 1802 has changed relative to processor module 1801, visual object 1805 is displayed in a different area of display 1804 in order to maintain visibility. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 17 depends from Claim 16 and recites further claim limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. As described above, the Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest the recited claim

limitations of Claim 16. The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a computer readable medium as recited above further comprising instructions for:

...initiating an application by said processor module.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest a computer readable medium comprising instructions for:

initiating an application by said processor module;
sensing a relative position of a sliding cover and a processor module,
wherein said relative position is a partially closed position;
generating said visual output on said display, wherein said visual
output comprises visual objects arranged to be viewable in response to said
relative position.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 17 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 18 depends from Claim 16 and recites further claim limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. As described above, the Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest the recited claim limitations of Claim 16. The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a computer readable medium as recited above further comprising instructions for:

...initiating communication with an external device.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest a computer readable medium comprising instructions for:

initiating communication with an external device;
sensing a relative position of a sliding cover and a processor module,
wherein said relative position is a partially closed position;
generating said visual output on said display, wherein said visual
output comprises visual objects arranged to be viewable in response to said
relative position.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 18 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 19 depends from Claim 16 and recites further claim limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. As described above, the Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest the recited claim limitations of Claim 16. The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest a computer readable medium as recited above further comprising instructions for:

...instructions for altering said visual output in response to a signal.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest a computer readable medium comprising instructions for:

sensing a relative position of a sliding cover and a processor module,
wherein said relative position is a partially closed position;
generating said visual output on said display, wherein said visual
output comprises visual objects arranged to be viewable in response to said
relative position; and
altering said visual output in response to signal

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 19 also overcomes
the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 20 depends from Claim 16 and recites further claim limitations
descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. As described above, the
Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata does not teach or suggest the recited claim
limitations of Claim 16. The Applicants further submit that Iwata does not teach or
suggest a computer readable medium as recited above with the additional claim
limitation of:

...wherein said instructions are for a rearrangement of a previously
displayed visual object.

Thus, Iwata does not teach or suggest a computer readable medium comprising
instructions for a rearrangement of a previously displayed visual object comprising:

initiating an application by said processor module;
sensing a relative position of a sliding cover and a processor module,
wherein said relative position is a partially closed position;

generating said visual output on said display, wherein said visual output comprises visual objects arranged to be viewable in response to said relative position.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 20 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected Claims.

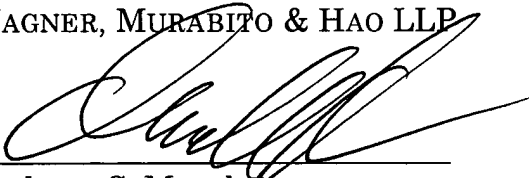
Based on the arguments presented above, the Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-20 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, the Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

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Respectfully submitted,
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